



# *Central Utah Water Conservancy District*

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September 25, 1992

RECEIVED  
SEP 28 1992

Mr. Robert L. Morgan  
State Engineer  
Utah Department of Natural Resources  
Division of Water Rights  
1636 West North Temple  
Salt Lake City, UT 84116

Dear Bob:

This letter is written in response to your letter of September 18, 1992, notifying us of the meeting scheduled on September 29, 1992, to discuss the implementation of the Utah Lake Drainage Distribution Plan. In that letter you noted that the majority of the water users have not expressed their position as to the proposed implementation of the plan on November 1, 1992.

The Central Utah Water Conservancy District recognizes the need for the distribution plan, especially as additional features of the Central Utah Project are developed and brought on-line. We believe however, that it would be better to postpone the implementation of the plan to a later date after the current drought has subsided. From the District's standpoint, this would also give it a chance to complete several studies currently underway in conjunction with the Central Utah Project Completion Act. Results from the studies will aid the District in better understanding the effect the distribution plan will have on its operations and would also be of assistance to the Division of Water Rights.

As to the current situation with the water level in Utah Lake and the operation of the Deer Creek/Strawberry Exchange, the District will continue to make the necessary releases from Strawberry Reservoir to Utah Lake to cover the Provo River water stored in Deer Creek Reservoir that would have normally flowed to Utah Lake. The District's deficit in water owed to Utah Lake is about 15,000 acre-feet amounting to about 2.6 inches on the lake at its present elevation. The computation for the 15,000 acre-foot deficit takes into account credit for 25,000 acre-feet of primary Utah Lake water rights the District owns and has left in Utah Lake. The water has been left in Utah Lake to reduce the amount of water required to be released from Strawberry Reservoir to Utah Lake. The District has not taken credit for any of the secondary water rights it owns in Utah Lake to date even though the District's secondary rights total about 60,000 acre-feet of

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water. To the extent the secondary rights were delivered water, Utah Lake receives the benefit since the District has left this water in the lake.

The District is currently working to get our Utah Lake water right applications in proper order to be filed with your office, and Jerry Olds has been a great help in this matter. Before the applications can be filed and eventually approved, we must complete the Jordanelle Operating agreement with the Provo River Water Users Association. We expect to complete the operating agreement this fall.

With respect to the District's Strawberry Reservoir releases to Utah Lake, the District has received approval from the Spanish Fork area irrigation companies & Strawberry Water Users Association to make releases this year during September. A 250 cfs release began on September 4, 1992, and will run through September 30, 1992. The District funded an environmental study to determine the impacts to the trout fishery from raising the release rate from 90 cfs to 120 cfs during the non-irrigation season. The District's plan to raise the rate to 120 cfs has been sent to Reclamation for approval. We anticipate receiving approval to proceed with the plan during October 1992. During October, no releases will be made because of construction activities required for the Sixth Water Aqueduct and because of the required Strawberry Tunnel inspection and maintenance. We are anticipating making releases from Strawberry Reservoir to Utah Lake for the first few days of April 1993 if Strawberry Water Users have not started irrigation flows.

The releases made from Strawberry Reservoir, in addition to leaving our primary Utah Lake water in Utah Lake, will amount to over 75,000 acre-feet. The District is committed to meeting our responsibility of replacing to Utah Lake the water stored on the Provo River under the Deer Creek/Strawberry Exchange.

Again, we ask that you consider our request to postpone the implementation of the Utah Lake Drainage Distribution Plan.

Sincerely yours,



Don A. Christiansen  
General Manager

DAC/RLT:dv

cc: Steve Clyde  
Dave Frandsen, USBR